

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, DECEMBER 1977

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Geoff Winter, Canberra 526573 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616  
For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526626 or State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

- In December 1977 there were 116 industrial disputes involving 15,200 workers and resulting in a loss of 23,100 working days, the lowest for any month since December 1968, when 20,000 working days were lost.
- The main disputes involved brewery workers in New South Wales, meat workers in Victoria and mine workers in Western Australia.
- In the year 1977, 596,200 workers were involved in industrial disputes, representing the lowest level recorded since 1967 (483,300) and resulting in a loss of 1,654,800 working days, the lowest level since 1968 (1,079,500).

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	3.3	45,206
1974	..	2,809	..	2,004.8	6,292.5	3.1	128,302
1975	..	2,432	..	1,398.0	3,509.9	2.5	95,761
1976	..	2,055	..	2,189.9	3,799.2	1.7	114,552
1977 (c)	..	2,090	..	596.2	1,654.8	2.8	59,674
1976 -							
December	89	121	16.3	24.4	62.3	2.6	2,233
1977 -							
January	119	119	17.2	17.2	28.4	1.7	919
February	182	197	35.8	36.7	109.9	3.0	3,657
March	237	266	73.0	76.9	169.0	2.2	5,724
April	131	162	23.2	33.7	98.8	2.9	3,510
May	193	234	59.3	67.7	153.7	2.3	5,989
June	193	224	65.7	78.2	158.3	2.0	5,919
July	202	242	51.9	75.7	160.6	2.1	5,863
August	201	249	91.3	111.0	224.2	2.0	8,078
September	203	242	91.7	122.9	273.8	2.2	9,892
October (c)(d)	185	209	41.2	52.5	166.2	3.2	5,933
November (c)	145	176	33.4	54.2	88.9	1.6	3,253
December (c)	99	116	12.5	15.2	23.1	1.5	936

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period - see paragraph 4, above. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures - see paragraph 4, above. (c) Subject to revision. (d) Excludes an estimated 150,000 Victorian workers stood down as a result of the electricity supply dispute. These workers lost an estimated 2.1 million working days.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication		Other industries (c)	All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services			Other
	Coal	Other							
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,634.7
1974	163.0	146.5	2,850.8	756.7	1,188.7	111.1	516.2	559.4	6,292.5
1975	343.3	90.0	1,279.2	464.1	497.0	46.2	146.7	643.5	3,509.9
1976	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2
1977 (d)	102.8	170.9	204.4	455.7	215.2	39.9	172.6	293.3	1,654.8
1976 -									
December	4.0	13.0	10.0	18.7	10.6	1.6	0.2	4.2	62.3
1977 -									
January	2.5	1.0	5.1	6.1	6.8	0.6	2.5	3.7	28.4
February	6.0	9.8	25.9	30.9	24.7	1.6	1.0	10.1	109.9
March	17.3	8.6	19.0	72.2	23.0	3.7	11.7	13.6	169.0
April	3.2	33.0	13.6	34.0	4.0	0.7	1.0	9.4	98.8
May	23.7	4.9	18.8	54.5	14.1	0.2	33.1	4.4	153.7
June	3.3	62.2	16.5	30.9	15.6	5.5	9.8	14.5	158.3
July	19.8	20.0	23.5	37.6	25.4	7.0	3.9	23.5	160.6
August	9.5	3.2	28.4	48.1	51.4	0.2	44.4	39.0	224.2
September	5.6	7.0	23.9	52.2	27.7	6.6	41.3	109.4	273.8
October (d)(e)	2.3	6.3	9.4	48.1	16.9	12.5	9.9	60.9	166.2
November (d)	7.1	11.8	18.3	30.6	3.9	0.5	13.1	3.6	88.9
December (d)	2.5	3.3	2.1	10.5	1.8	0.7	0.9	1.3	23.1

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification — see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (d) Subject to revision. (e) See footnote (d) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1973	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1974	2,665.0	2,386.6	529.5	316.5	256.9	88.5	6,292.5
1975	1,477.8	1,221.7	473.3	127.6	100.7	40.6	3,509.9
1976	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1977 (c)	538.2	586.1	240.8	30.6	220.5	26.7	1,654.8
1976 -							
December	30.2	12.1	2.1	2.8	14.4	0.4	62.3
1977 -							
January	14.7	2.8	5.2	0.4	2.0	0.9	28.4
February	24.5	41.5	26.1	4.5	12.2	1.1	109.9
March	48.8	72.4	32.6	2.7	10.6	1.5	169.0
April	12.1	33.4	14.2	3.9	33.3	0.1	98.8
May	57.3	56.6	25.8	4.6	5.1	2.9	153.7
June	33.0	21.3	21.8	2.4	76.5	3.2	158.3
July	63.9	44.0	16.8	1.8	22.7	11.1	160.6
August	86.7	94.1	24.4	6.7	8.8	2.4	224.2
September	86.1	131.5	48.3	0.1	3.6	2.1	273.8
October (c)(d)	61.8	62.8	13.7	2.3	23.7	0.9	166.2
November (c)	39.0	21.0	9.1	1.1	17.3	0.6	88.9
December (c)	10.3	4.8	2.9	0.2	4.7	..	23.1

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision. (d) See footnote (d) to Table 1.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (1101.0).

R. J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician